

# EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

## ROUTING SLIP

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Remarks

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STAT

Executive Secretary

28 Sep 84

Date

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

adcl  
DOCT  
Ex Dir  
DOIT  
NIO / WSA

Date

Executive Registry

84- 9306



September 26, 1984

Dear Bill:

I would like to call your attention to this summary of overseas media reaction to the President's UNGA address. It shows, to date, a very positive response. The Agency will issue additional summaries and will also analyze the overseas public input of the President's speeches and meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

Charles Z. Wick  
Director

The Honorable  
William J. Casey  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency



L-316

# **SPECIAL REPORT**

# **Foreign Media Reaction**

**United States Information Agency**

September 25, 1984

## **PRESIDENT'S UNGA ADDRESS**

### Summary

Worldwide media response to the President's address before the 39th session of the United Nations General Assembly was exceptionally positive, albeit cautious in that many saw its tone as considerably different from Mr. Reagan's previous speeches dealing with the USSR.

The observation that his remarks were "conciliatory," "warm" and "positive and sincere" dominated the media in the 24-hour period following the address yesterday. Several editorials declared, as did one in independent General-Anzeiger of Bonn, that the speech "deserved undivided applause."

The independent London Times said it was "the most conciliatory speech he has made." In Paris, independent Quotidien held the President "wrapped himself in dove feathers."

The tone of the President's speech impressed many. Independent Davar of Tel Aviv said it illustrated "Washington's goodwill." In Seoul, Government-dominated Kyunghyang Shinmun believed the President came through as "sincere and positive."

Media analysts judged the President was paving the way for reopening a dialogue with the Soviet Union. A commentator for publicly financed NHK-TV in Tokyo said his words provided "a concrete step toward opening a dialogue." Turin's centrist La Stampa maintained the Soviets "will not be able to reject Reagan's offer of negotiations." In Madrid, right-of-center Ya declared the speech "signalled resumption of dialogue."

Some foreign journalists perceived the President as suggesting inclusion of the Soviets in solving regional problems. London's liberal Guardian said that "most significantly he seemed to be saying the United States would allow Moscow a say on regional issues." The independent Irish Times of Dublin said this idea "could render dividends." Bonn's conservative Die Welt held that "the core statement was that spheres of influence are a thing of the past."

A scattering of foreign media observers critical of the speech remarked, as did Denmark's independent Jyllands Posten, that the President presented few new initiatives. Some maintained the tone was inspired by electoral considerations. London's conservative Daily Telegraph said the speech was "clearly designed to undercut Democratic criticism."

Many correspondents noted Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko's "impassive" reaction. While suggesting that the Soviets "could not help but be impressed," they reported, as did 24 Heures of Lausanne, that Gromyko "never applauded once."

## EUROPE

## BRITAIN

"Reagan Offers Russia a New Start"

Headlines in London this morning were "Reagan Prepared to Open Negotiations With Soviet Union...Chernenko Health Casts Doubt on Summit...Giving Peace a Chance" (Times), "Reagan Offers Russians a New Start...A Reach For the Sky...With a Smile and a Nod and a Question" (Guardian), "Reagan Offers Deal on Arms to Kremlin,...Reagan-Gromyko Talks Portrayed as 'Pact with Devil'" (Daily Telegraph), "Reagan Offers 'Star Wars' Restraint to Promote Arms Talks" (Financial Times), "Reagan Woos the Kremlin" (Daily Mail) and "Can the Two Old Hawks Have a Way to Peace" (Daily Express).

"Regular Meetings...A New Climate"

Washington correspondent Nicholas Ashford reported today in the independent London Times: "President Reagan yesterday proposed that the two super-powers should establish regular ministerial and cabinet-level meetings to 'resolve needless obstacles to understanding.'..."

"The President said his objective was to 'develop a new climate of policy understanding' between the United States and the Soviet Union. Such a climate was necessary, he said, if crises were to be avoided and real arms control negotiated..."

"In the most conciliatory speech he has made on U.S.-Soviet relations since he assumed office, the President expressed the hope that a new round of nuclear arms and space weapons talks could begin by the end of this year or early in 1985..."

"Yesterday's speech was noteworthy as much for its tone as for its content. There was none of the tough anti-Soviet rhetoric which had characterized the President's earlier statements on U.S.-Soviet relations..."

"A Chance For the Soviets to Climb Down"

The paper editorialized: "President Reagan should be well pleased with his current speech writers. The text they provided for his use at the UN General Assembly could hardly have been better suited to its time and place. Without modifying the substance of his position on any point, or even soft-pedaling his general principles, Mr. Reagan managed to strike the right note of respect for the independence of nonaligned states, combined with urgent conciliatoriness in his approach to the Soviet Union..."

"Smarting from their defeat over the 'Euromissiles,' the Soviet leaders must not have been willing to accept that. Yet they must know by now that there is no chance of getting a freeze only when and where there is an imbalance in their favor.

"There are some signs that they are looking for a way out which will not be too obviously a climb down. If that is the spirit in which Mr. Gromyko goes to Washington, yesterday's speech suggests that he should find Mr. Reagan in a helpful frame of mind."

#### "Soviets Offered a Say in Regional Issues"

The liberal Guardian's New York correspondent Jane Rosen wrote: "President Reagan set a new and hopeful tone for American-Soviet relations yesterday, offering regular consultation on regional issues, the exchange of military information, and a new effort in arms-control negotiations..."

"The highlight of the speech was a series of proposals for regular, high-level contact with the Soviets. Most significantly, Mr. Reagan seemed to suggest that the United States would be willing to allow Moscow to have a say in many regional issues from which it has long been excluded..."

"The President appeared to be seeking to convince Moscow that his Administration wants to establish 'a realistic, constructive working relationship' with the Soviet Union..."

#### "Should Be Seen as Far More Than Rhetoric"

Another correspondent added: "His call for regular high level U.S.-Soviet meetings to draw up a 'road map' of strategic projections over the next two decades should be seen as far more than rhetoric."

"It corresponds to a growing view, at least among Western security experts, that the development of space weaponry requires a fundamental reevaluation of U.S. and Soviet perceptions of the nuclear deterrent."

"Until now, both superpowers have focused on offensive nuclear weapons. The militarization of space would switch attention to defensive arms. Unless the Soviet Union and the United States achieve an understanding where they are moving with defensive as well as offensive systems, the postwar equilibrium of forces could be fatally undermined..."

#### "Bemusement and Cynicism"

An editorial in the same paper said, "No one wishes to be skeptical....If Mr. Reagan genuinely seeks the beginning of prolonged dialogue with the Soviet Union, then that is profoundly cheering....His theoretical power for good far outstrips what Fritz Mondale, in practice, might achieve."

"It is only when, once again, you try to discern a consistent and coherent purpose to the President's initiatives, that bemusement and cynicism grow like weeds on a derelict building site..."

"An Election Year...Gromyko's Stony Silence"

The conservative Daily Telegraph's correspondent in New York Richard Beeston wrote: "The election year speech, which lacked a single direct criticism of the Soviet Union or its Cuban ally, called for the establishment of a new working relationship with Moscow and an 'historic breakthrough' in nuclear arms control.

"But it was received in stony silence by the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Gromyko....Politically, with Presidential elections only weeks away, the speech was clearly designed to undercut Democratic criticism that Mr. Reagan was inflexible and unable to reduce East-West tensions..."

"More Forthcoming Language But No Substantive Change"

The Financial Times U.S. editor in New York, Reginald Dale, filed: "President Ronald Reagan yesterday offered to consider 'restraint' in his 'Star Wars' program...in a bid to entice the Soviet Union back to the nuclear arms negotiating table....U.S. officials said that Mr. Reagan's offer of restraint could involve a moratorium in the testing of anti-satellite weapons..."

"U.S. officials said that, while Mr. Reagan's proposal did not represent a substantive shift in the U.S. position, it had been phrased in more forthcoming language to make it easier for the Soviet Union to resume the strategic arms negotiations that it suspended in Geneva at the end of last year..."

FRANCE

"Reagan Thaws Out"

Today's Paris headlines read "American President Proposes Dialogue at UN... Gromyko Remains Icy" (France-Soir), "East-West: Reagan Plays at Easing Tensions at the UN" (Liberation), "Reagan to Gromyko: We're Ready to Negotiate" (Parisien), "Reagan to USSR: Let's Talk Calmly...Reagan Proposes Global Dialogue to USSR" (Figaro), "Reagan Thaws Out" (Le Matin) and "Reagan's New Look" (Communist Humanite).

"Wrapped in Dove Feathers"

Independent Quotidien remarked: "For his speech to the General Assembly ...President Reagan wrapped himself in dove feathers. From his long peroration, we retain a single phrase: 'Let's talk.' To say that his reelection concerns were not in the forefront of his speech would be erroneous. To claim that they accounted for everything he said would be equally so..."

"Only the Tone Has Changed"

Conservative Figaro held: "Basically, there was no major change of direction. The White House is maintaining its objectives, 'peace and liberty,' and its philosophy, even if it claims not to be 'ideologically rigid.'

"Only the tone has changed..."

"Virtues of Dialogue Rediscovered"

La Marseillaise of Marseilles noted: "Only yesterday, Ronald Reagan was holding the USSR up to public obloquy, calling socialist nations 'the empire of evil,' and going so far as to dream aloud, in front of an open microphone, of unleashing nuclear war on the Soviet capital..."

"And here we have the same man, for a short while reverted to candidate Reagan, suddenly rediscovering the virtues of dialogue. He pulls the Soviet Union back from the depths of hell and goes so far as to recognize its status as 'the second great power.'..."

"It is simply that our cowboy is also an accomplished politician..."

"Despite Appearances...Worrisome"

Communist l'Humanite contended: "We won't complain about Mr. Reagan making comments in sharp contrast to those he has made in the past....After years of tension...it is evidently not enough to display good intentions to repair the damages. Despite appearances, American aggressivity is not disarming itself..."

"On many points, Mr. Reagan's speech was worrisome...He appeared in no way inclined to abandon the ambition to insure the military superiority of the United States...It is undeniable, however, that Mr. Reagan changed tone yesterday...undoubtedly to reassure American voters who are concerned about his behavior over the past four years..."



"A Reagan To Whom We Are Not Accustomed"

New York correspondent for TV Antenne 2 asserted: "If you believe Ronald Reagan, not everything is going badly between Washington and Moscow....We saw a Reagan this morning to whom we are not accustomed.

"Now, the question is whether we are witnessing a real redirection of American policy toward the Soviet Union, one which will take concrete form Friday with the visit of Gromyko to the White House or, rather, whether it is a tactic by the President-candidate who has often been reproached for his intransigence with Moscow."

"An Electoral Tactic or a Fundamental Change?"

A correspondent for France-Inter radio said: "We are a long way from Reagan's famous anti-Soviet speeches but it remains to be seen if this is a purely electoral tactic or a fundamental change in the U.S. attitude toward Moscow."

WEST GERMANY

"Reagan to Moscow: Let's Discuss Everything"

Headlines in West Germany were: "Reagan Offers Soviets Fresh Negotiations" (Bonner Rundschau), "Reagan Offers Kremlin Dialogue" (Rheinische Post), "Reagan Calls For Extensive Negotiations of Superpowers" (Frankfurter Neue Presse), "Reagan Wants to Revive Dialogue With Moscow" (Sueddeutsche Zeitung), "Reagan Appeals to Moscow For New Beginning in Relations" (Frankfurter Allgemeine), "Reagan: I'm Ready for Constructive Discussions with Kremlin", (Westfaelische Rundschau), "Reagan to Moscow: Let's Discuss Everything" (Neue Ruhr Zeitung), "Reagan Proposes Exchange Even of Military Data" (Die Welt) and "Reagan Ready to Shorten the Distance to Soviet Union" (General-Anzeiger).

"We Are Ready For Constructive Negotiations With Soviets"

Conservative Die Welt, in a lead story, postulated that President Reagan's "far-reaching proposals for reducing tension in the world and for improving U.S.-Soviet relations" made a "central statement" that promotes understanding for his foreign policy.

"The key to an understanding of the President's "very conciliatory speech" is his statement that "America has repaired its strength, we have invigorated our alliances and friendships, we are ready for constructive negotiations with the Soviet Union."

### "Washington Rejects...Spheres of Influence"

Conservative Die Welt editorialized on the front page: "By emphasizing the critical problem of regional conflicts, Reagan indicated that Washington rejects the division of the world into spheres of influence. There will be no return to the Soviet interpretation of the Yalta agreement..."

### "Bonn Supports Reagan's Proposal For New Dialogue With Soviets"

Independent General-Anzeiger reported a Government spokesman's statements that Bonn supports President Reagan's proposals for a new dialogue with the USSR. The spokesman reportedly said that there should be "flexibility on both sides."

### "Speech Deserves Undivided Applause"

The same paper editorialized that President Reagan's UNGA speech "deserves undivided applause from all concerned."

"Seldom before has a Reagan speech been so free from polemics. Seldom before has he outlined his ideas of constructive cooperation in the world so clearly. Seldom before has he made such frank public statements on what he intends to discuss in detail with his counterpart...Andrei Gromyko..."

### "What Has To Be Done For Peace"

Conservative Frankfurter Allgemeine commented that "in his remarks, Reagan...appeals to popular ideas on what has to be done for peace..."

"Washington has always banked on something else, namely that the so-called arms race would become more and more of a problem to the Soviets from an economic viewpoint..."

"The Soviets must have realized that what is of primary importance is not to carry on an arms race to wage wars that will never happen, but to engage in a race of technical civilization."

### "Reagan's New Start"

Liberal Stuttgarter Zeitung, under the above title, observed from Washington that the content of President Reagan's address to the UN General Assembly was very similar to his inaugural address. "The President pushes the 'on' button for a new foreign policy, an effort that has been unsuccessful during his first term in office..."

"There was no language too strong for him to stress the significance he wishes to accord U.S.-Soviet relations."

"Of course, Reagan's address also was an integral part of his campaign for reelection....But (it) was more than mere campaign tactics..."

"Reagan's Offer to Moscow--More Than Just Campaign Gimmick"

Pro-Social Democratic Westfaelische Rundschau of Dortmund used the above title to comment that "during the past 12 months, Reagan has dramatically shortened the distance between the superpowers, at least as far as his rhetoric is concerned..."

"Now he has presented a program which contains a number of constructive proposals to improve U.S.-Soviet relations. Not even his political opponents will be able to denounce it as mere campaign propaganda.

"This is particularly true for his suggestion to maintain ongoing bilateral contacts..."

"A New Beginning"

Pro-Christian Democratic Frankfurter Neue Presse, under the banner above, stated that the President "opened ways for the Moscow leadership which it can use without losing face or prestige.

"The substance of Reagan's offer is to set up regular consultations on the policy level."

"Reason For Hope"

Pro-Christian Democratic Bonner Rundschau judges that "there is reason for hope, but, for the time being, not for enthusiasm.

"The beginning of a new policy between Moscow and Washington is taking place within an extremely narrow framework. But it definitely is a beginning."

"Secure Peace and Ban Nuclear War"

Pro-Social Democratic Neue Ruhr Zeitung of Essen said that "a new beginning is supposed to be made to secure peace and ban the horror of nuclear war. This is what the President of the United States demanded.

"All things considered it seems like a little bit too much of a verbalized love of peace. But what has been said has been said, and the new beginning might now take place if the good words are followed by their practical implementation..."

## ITALY

### "Reagan Offers Hand to Moscow"

Among headlines were "Reagan Offers His Hand to Moscow" (Corriere della Sera), "Let's Negotiate, Says Reagan to Moscow Amidst Applause--Only Gromyko Remains Impassive" (Il Giornale), "Prudent Offer From Reagan--Detente Remains Monopoly of Superpowers" (Il Messagero), "Most Conciliatory Speech Ever Made by President Toward USSR--Moscow Hopes But Mistrusts as Well" (La Repubblica) and "Reagan's Tone Is Relaxed--Gromyko's Speech Awaited With Great Expectation" (Communist l'Unita).

### "Not a Substantive Change"

Moderate TG-1's main TV newscast last night, from New York, said that "the speech shows a new approach but not a substantive change in U.S. foreign policy."

### "Gromyko's Attitude Not Surprising"

Left-of-center GR-1 radio newscast this morning observed that "Gromyko's attitude was not surprising. The Soviets do not applaud American speeches. His reply will be interesting."

### "Three Signals"

Centrist Corriere della Sera of Milan stated that "the President's objective was to create the most favorable premises for the meeting with Gromyko."

"But the most interesting part of the speech consisted of three signals. The first is the indication of an increasing U.S. flexibility on the subject of space arms negotiations. The second is the proposal to gather all disarmament negotiations under a single umbrella. The third is the idea of a periodic consultation."

### "An Offer the Soviets Cannot Reject"

Centrist La Stampa of Turin commented: "Reagan made a public and solemn offer of negotiations that the Soviet leaders will not be able to reject."

"The concreteness of his statement on problem of armaments and the fact that the President has affirmed with unprecedented clarity that there is no alternative to negotiating with the USSR show that Reagan's offer is a pledge, and dispels the suspicion that the Reaganite hawks think that it is dangerous and inappropriate to negotiate with Moscow."

"Balanced on Principles of Freedom and Defense"

Conservative Il Giornale of Milan's New York correspondent, Mauro Lucentini, felt that "Reagan's speech was clearly balanced to safeguard the principles of freedom and defense on which his Administration is based, but at the same time to make a rapprochement possible."

"The Man of Dialogue"

Leftist, influential La Repubblica's New York correspondent, Gaetano Scardocchia, commented: "The really new aspect of the speech is its tone: serene, confident, in no way argumentative towards the USSR."

"Now that elections are nearing, he has completely put aside the wild rhetoric of the past and offers himself as the man of the dialogue..."

"Reagan: Best Actor on American Political Stage"

Communist Party organ l'Unita's correspondent at the UN remarked: "Ronald Reagan, the best actor on the American political stage, has performed with success at the UN assembly in his most recent interpretation, that of the President willing to start constructive negotiations with the USSR."

"More Constructive Contact or Episode of Showbiz Policy"

The same paper speculated: "Based on our experience, we must wonder whether we are faced with the resumption of a more constructive contact between the two major powers, or whether we are watching an episode of the showbiz policy in which the U.S. President is so good..."

"Settlement of the Cold War"

Il Mattino of Naples predicted that "the United States and the Soviet Union will negotiate a settlement of the cold war immediately following the U.S. elections, without the participation of the European allies."

SWITZERLAND

"Reagan's Olive Branch"

Typical headlines today were "Reagan's Olive Branch" (Le Matin), "Reagan Ready For Constructive Negotiations" (Tages-Anzeiger), "Reagan Ready to Negotiate With USSR" (24 Heures), "Reagan Appeals For Constructive Dialogue With Moscow" (Neue Zuercher Zeitung) and "Reagan Conciliatory Toward Moscow" (La Suisse).

### "An Impassive Gromyko"

Lausanne's middle-of-the-road 24 Heures carried Washington correspondent Jacqueline de Montmollin's report that "faced with an impassive Gromyko--he never applauded once--President Reagan strove to show in his address that the United States was full of good intentions and wanted to cooperate with the USSR, as it did with the world in general..."

"However, political observers are wondering to what extent electoral considerations may have influenced the President's declared readiness for cooperation with the Soviet Union and the UN..."

"Early comments in UN circles indicated doubt whether the Reagan Administration was really prepared to cooperate with Moscow over for example, the Middle East or Central America."

### "Is This a New Reagan?"

Today's middle-of-the-road La Suisse of Geneva asked, "Is this the new Reagan? One may well think it is, judging by the conciliatory tone he used yesterday in speaking of the Soviet Union..."

"It remains to be seen whether the Kremlin will grasp Ronald Reagan's outstretched hand. Mr. Gromyko is never all smiles, but the particularly stony visage he showed when listening to the President's speech yesterday is perhaps not a happy augury."

## AUSTRIA

### "Improved Prospects for a New Thaw"

Washington correspondent George Possaner, writing in today's independent Die Press, said that "the prospects for a new thaw between the superpowers improved on Monday....Addressing the UNGA in Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko's presence, President Reagan advocated 'constructive talks' with the Kremlin."

### "Attentive Gromyko"

Vienna's independent Kurier today judged that Mr. Gromyko "was very attentive...when listening to President Reagan's UNGA address."

## DENMARK

### "Reagan's Magnanimous and Excellent Bid For Better Contact"

The lead editorial in today's independent Berlingske Tidende declared that "it was a magnanimous and excellent bid for better contact between the United States and the Soviet Union that was issued by President Reagan in his UN speech yesterday...

"It was a courageous attempt to remove the crisis--and its too great expectations--from the larger political dialogue and bring it down to the everyday level. It sounds reasonable and almost too good to become a reality."

### "Reagan's Offer on Regional Conflicts Attracted Much Attention"

Aarhus' Jyllands-Posten today ran New York correspondent Niels-Victor Christiansen's view that "aside from the relatively warm tones and the ideas for a general extension of permanent contacts, Reagan's speech contained few concrete initiatives....But his idea about offering negotiations on regional conflicts attracted much attention...

"If Reagan's speech is to be taken literally it might lead to an inclusion of the Soviets in the Mideast peace efforts as well as in other places where the United States has previously attempted to keep the Soviet Union at a distance..."

## NORWAY

### "Reagan Stretched His Hand to the Russians"

A commentary on NRK TV's prime newscast stated, "We heard a self-confident President speak to the UNGA, one who was convinced he can look forward to another four years in the White House, one who stretched out his hand to the Russians..."

"When Reagan now calls for regular American-Soviet foreign minister-level meetings, he does not speak to deaf ears. The Soviets show strong interest in an agreement aimed at reducing a future arms race in space."

### "Reagan Speech Offered Clear Alternative to Propaganda War"

Oslo's conservative Verdens Gang wrote: "Yesterday's speech by Reagan at UNGA was important because it offered a clear alternative to the current propaganda war."

"Everyone now hopes that the Soviet leaders will agree with Reagan that in today's world there is no alternative to negotiations. That is all it takes to get a promising process started."

#### FINLAND

##### "Reagan Hopes For Rapprochement With Soviet Union"

Among headlines today were "Reagan Offers Proposals at UN to Improve Superpower Relations...Reagan Hopes for Rapprochement With Soviet Union" (Helsingin Sanomat), "Reagan's 'Peace Offensive'--United States Ready For Talks on a High Level" (Hufvudstadsbladet) and "Reagan Proposes Regular Meetings" (Suomen Sosialidemokraatti).

##### "The Eloquence of an Apostle of Peace"

Today's independent Helsingin Sanomat front-paged a report by Washington correspondent Matti Verkkola who stated that Mr. Reagan "returned to Washington in an enthusiastic atmosphere after offering the Soviet Union a hand in peace with the eloquence of an apostle of peace at the United Nations..."

"His speech was televised live nationally, and it bit seriously into the Democratic opposition's foreign policy criticism. Ronald Reagan was once again masterly, and so was Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko who sat expressionless straight across from the President."

#### SPAIN

##### "Reagan Reaches Out"

Madrid's right-of-center Ya, in an editorial under the above headline, said: "For many observers, the speech expresses not just a wish, but signals the resumption of the dialogue between the superpowers which Reagan hopes will be 'lasting, constructive and realistic.'"

#### IRELAND

##### "What Does 'Spheres of Influence Are a Thing of the Past' Mean?"

Dublin's liberal Irish Times today said, "'Spheres of influence,' Mr. Reagan proclaimed in his address to the General Assembly, 'are a thing of the past.'"



"It is a wholesome sentiment, but what precisely can it mean in concrete terms? A cynic might say, for example, that it could signify simply an agreement between the United States and the USSR to divide the world between them--a change from regional spheres to global hemispheres.

"If, on the other hand, it means a united endeavour to resolve regional conflicts involving one or other of both superpowers, it could yield dividends.

"Mr. Reagan proposed that the United States and the USSR should 'institutionalize regular ministerial or cabinet-level meetings.' Since Moscow long ago accepted the 'hot line' as a safety measure, it might not dismiss the idea out of hand: it is in a sense along the same lines."

#### "Soviet Response Must Be Constructive"

The conservative Irish Independent remarked today, "Confronted with this basket of offers the Russians may be inclined, if secretly, to claim that President Reagan is making an election speech.

"But it was a speech delivered at the UN before the representatives of scores of nations and likely to be heard all over the world.

"The response from the Soviets must be constructive. If, that is, their own internal politics make such a response possible."

#### CZECHOSLOVAKIA

#### "Reagan's Most Moderate Speech"

Prague domestic radio yesterday ran New York correspondent Michal Stasz' assertion that "the first reactions to Reagan's speech at the General Assembly agree that this was his most moderate speech since he took office less than four years ago...

"The truth is that his speech is regarded as a sign of the dangerously approaching U.S. election, which even he does not believe can be won by the threat of a new round of the arms buildup. And this is behind the moderation and apparent constructiveness of (his) speech..."

EAST BERLIN

Reagan Failed to Mention Soviet First-Use Initiative

East Berlin domestic radio said yesterday that Mr. Reagan closed his UNGA speech "with quotations from Mahatma Gandhi and Thomas Paine, in contrast to the aggressive style of earlier speeches, in which the Soviet Union was depicted as the Evil Empire. This time, noticeably mild tones predominated...

"What Reagan omitted in his UN speech is also instructive. It is known that the USSR proposed long ago specific, feasible steps to end the arms race-- for example, the renunciation of the first use of nuclear weapons to which the Soviet Union has already unilaterally committed itself. Not a single word in today's speech by the American President was in fact devoted to this."

POLAND

"Change in Tone a Positive Sign"

Warsaw domestic service today carried a report by Maksymilian Berezowski, its Washington correspondent, who said: "According to opinion here, the President's words so far are hanging in mid-air. The change in tone is a positive sign, but unless it is followed by the change in policy it remains a passing gesture.

"This passing gesture is connected with the coming election, and the decisions on changes in policy have not yet been taken. As it is said here, Reagan wants to refute charges that he is toying with nuclear war."

HUNGARY

"More Restrained Than Earlier Declarations"

Radio Budapest's UN commentator said last night that the President's address "was more restrained in tone than his earlier declarations."

He summarized: "The American President made no concrete initiatives for halting the nuclear arms race but his speech prominently featured expressions such as a new beginning, fresh approach, negotiated solution, cooperation and joint action.

"Reagan spoke in a similar spirit about regional problems. He called for diplomatic steps to be taken in Central America, the Middle East and Afghanistan--in the case of the last without even referring to the USSR..."

## SOVIET UNION

### "No Change in Essence"

Today's Moscow TASS released a statement saying in part: "His speech contained no indication of any change in the essence of the present U.S. policy and boiled down to absolutely groundless assertions that the United States allegedly wants the arms race to be curbed and supports the basic aims and principles of the UN Charter.

"The President's words concerning peace were only meant to camouflage Washington's basic foreign policy guidelines and its interventionist policy in all regions of the world--in the Middle East, in Central America, in the south of Africa, in Europe, in the Far East...

"The UN rostrum was actually used by Reagan for his political election-eering aims. That was the reason behind his attempt to present his old policy in a new, more attractive package without changing its essence..."

## EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

### JAPAN

#### 'A Concrete Step' Toward Reopening U.S.-Soviet Dialogue

Publicly financed NHK-TV had correspondent Irisawa's observation today that the Reagan speech indicates "a concrete step" toward reopening U.S.-Soviet dialogue. The network said the Reagan speech appeared to be aimed at the forthcoming Presidential election.

#### "President Sincerely Thinks Time Is Ripe To Improve U.S.-Soviet Relations"

Fuji-TV correspondent Tanaka today said it could be stated that the Reagan speech seeks improvement of U.S.-Soviet relations to impress the American people in hopes of producing major results the Reagan Administration has not yet scored in the diplomatic field.

The network said, "The President sincerely thinks that the time is ripe now to improve U.S.-Soviet relations as the Soviets have indicated a desire to hold talks."

## SOUTH KOREA

### "Sincere and Positive Step for Dialogue With Moscow"

Government-dominated Kyunghyang Shinmun's Washington correspondent Song Tae-ho today described the address as "hardliner Reagan's smiling tactics," but said that President Reagan's peace overture is viewed as a "sincere and positive step for dialogue with Moscow" in that he made concrete proposals regarding the time, methods and agenda for negotiation talks.

## INDONESIA

### "President Reagan Proposes Political Dialogue With Soviet Union"

Headlines today were "President Reagan Proposes Political Dialogue with Soviet Union" (Kompas), "Reagan Offers 'Constructive Negotiations' With Soviets" (Jakarta Post), and "Reagan Seeks 'Realistic, Constructive' Ties With Soviets" (Indonesian Observer).

## SOUTH ASIA

## PAKISTAN

### President Applauded By Most UN Delegates

All major newspapers and TV prominently covered President Reagan's speech at the UN General Assembly and highlighted the main themes of the speech.

The independent Muslim noted that President Reagan was applauded by a number of delegates attending the General Assembly session but Gromyko was conspicuous by not joining the applause.

## MIDDLE EAST

## ISRAEL

### "President Reagan Still Stands by His Middle East Peace Initiative"

All media highlighted President Reagan's reaffirmation that he "still stands by his Middle East peace initiative as a basis for a just and lasting peace."

Israel Radio last night led its news broadcasts with reports on the President's speech at the UN and the reaction of Foreign Minister Shamir's spokesman, Avi Pazner, who told Israeli correspondents in New York that Israel remains opposed to the plan and that "this is the position of the entire Government."

The radio station also featured the reaction of the Prime Minister's office, which "takes some exception" to Pazner's remark.

#### President Criticized For Reviving Debate With Israel

Independent Maariv, in an editorial today, criticized the President for having "revived the debate with Israel on his plan a mere six weeks before the U.S. Presidential elections and less than two weeks after the establishment of a new Government in Israel, whose leaders are known to sharply disagree on the matter."

The paper also said that the reference the President made to his Middle East peace initiative "is meant to remind us that America's commitment to aid Israel should not be taken for granted."

#### "Israel Would Profit From Quest For Renewed (East-West) Co-existence"

Pro-Government Davar today held that the President's remarks about U.S.-Soviet relations "illustrate Washington's good will. Reagan does not seem anxious to renew the arms race in space, which could jeopardize his economic achievements..."

"Both Israel and the Jewish people would profit from the President's quest for renewed (East-West) co-existence, since without improved relations there can be no fresh Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union."

#### JORDAN

#### "Reagan Reiterates Commitment To His Initiative"

Headlines in Amman today were "Reagan Reiterates Commitment to his Initiative and Warns Against Expelling Israel From the UN" (ar-Rai), "Reagan Stresses Resolution 242 is the Cornerstone For Peace Initiative" (ad-Dustur), and "Reagan Proposing New Exchanges With the Soviets" (Jordan Times).

#### "Speech Underlines an American Foreign Policy More Inclined Toward Peace"

Independent ad-Dustur today held that "the speech underlines a number of factors, which combined together, form an American foreign policy more inclined toward peace."

The editorial said that the new policy is a "political surprise by a President whose reign is characterized by escalation of political confrontation and cold war...

"We believe the United States is able to achieve peace in the region if its intentions are real, but our long bitter experience leads us not to bet on a horse that has lost the race many times....We are waiting for the translation of Reagan's words into deeds to see whether his speech is a kind of electoral campaign or he really means a change in U.S. policy."

#### "Reagan at the UN"

Sawt al-Shaab today commented, under the above headline, that President Reagan is focusing "more on the importance of negotiations rather than on Israeli occupation of land, as if negotiations were the root of the problem."

The editorial scoffed at the President's reference to his peace initiative "as based on UN resolutions, without telling the world that Israel was the first to oppose his initiative and that he himself opposed the participation of the PLO in peace negotiations."

#### SYRIA

#### "Reagan Wanted His UN Speech To Be Like His Reelection Campaign Rhetoric"

Government-owned al-Baath today carried a byliner's statement that said "Reagan wanted his UN speech to be like his reelection campaign rhetoric.... If the President of the United States was really concerned with peace, he would have announced his Administration's commitment to international resolutions and recommendations."

#### SAUDI ARABIA

TV and radio gave prominent coverage to President Reagan's UN speech, but only two Arabic papers carried reports, in addition to both English-language dailies.

#### "Reagan's Speech Aimed at American Voters"

Moderately-conservative al-Jazirah today noted that "Reagan's speech is aimed at making American voters understand that their President, who returned glory to America after the Democrats had dissipated it, will compel the Soviets to reach an agreement, but from a position of strength. If this message gets through to the voters, the speech will have achieved its utmost aim."

"President's Call To Promote Freedom Sounds Hollow"

The English-language Saudi Gazette today criticized the United States as "the biggest single source of UN weakness" and as "the odd member out."

The paper held that the President's call "to combat international lawlessness and to promote freedom sounds hollow...Which of these principles was the United States promoting when it encouraged Israel to invade Lebanon, or let Sabra and Shatila happen?"